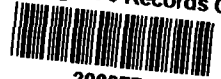


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EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
Office of Public Affairs (5PA-14)
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604



Superfund Fact Sheet

Investigation Begins at Himco Dump

Elkhart, Indiana

July 1990

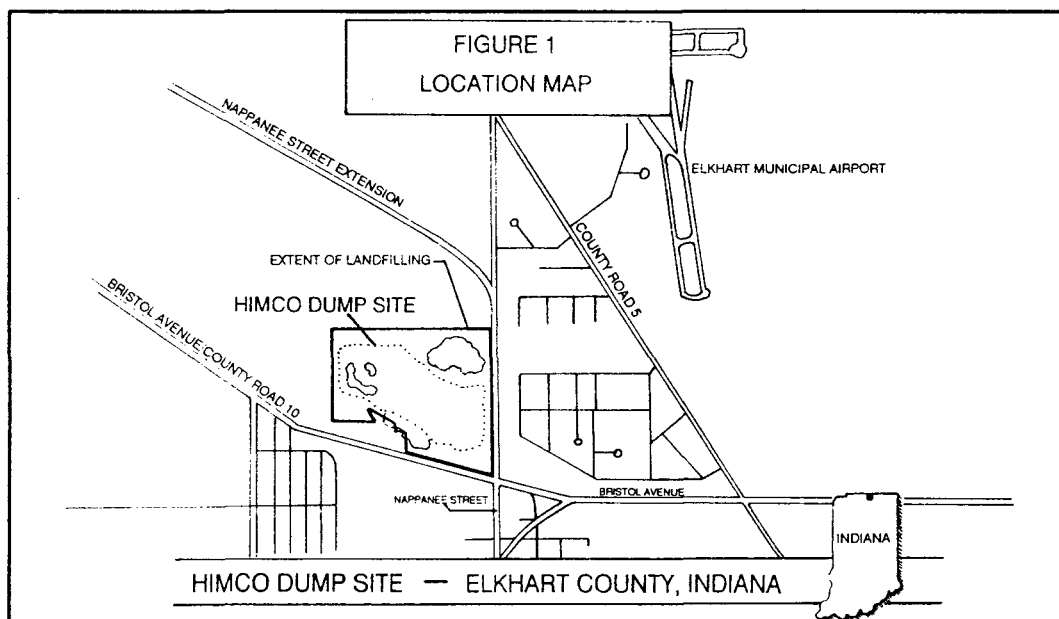
This fact sheet contains the following information about the Himco Dump Superfund site:

- The history of the site
- The long-term investigation that will soon begin
- The Superfund process
- Technical Assistance Grants
- How you can obtain more information

Public Meeting

U.S. EPA is holding a public meeting on July 12, 1990. Representatives from U.S. EPA, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and Indiana State Board of Health will give a presentation on the history of Himco Dump, how the Superfund process works, and details of the upcoming investigation. They will be available to answer questions regarding the site and the investigation. All interested residents and local officials are encouraged to attend.

DATE: July 12, 1990
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: MIDWAY MOTOR LODGE
300 South Main
Elkhart, IN 46516
(219) 522-2455



■ Introduction

This Summer, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), will begin field work at the Himco Dump Superfund site. This field work continues the *Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)* of the site which officially began in September 1989.

The first part of the study, the Remedial Investigation (RI), will determine the nature and extent of contamination

at Himco Dump. It involves extensive sampling and laboratory analyses of soil, soil gas, groundwater, surface water and sediments at the site and in neighboring areas. The sample results will be evaluated to determine the contaminants present and how they move from the site to the surrounding environment. The RI is also used to assess whether these contaminants pose a risk to human health and the environment. Information on the upcoming RI is presented on page 3 of this fact sheet.

NOTE: Words in *italicized bold type* are defined in the Glossary on page 6.

continued on page 5

■ Remedial Investigation

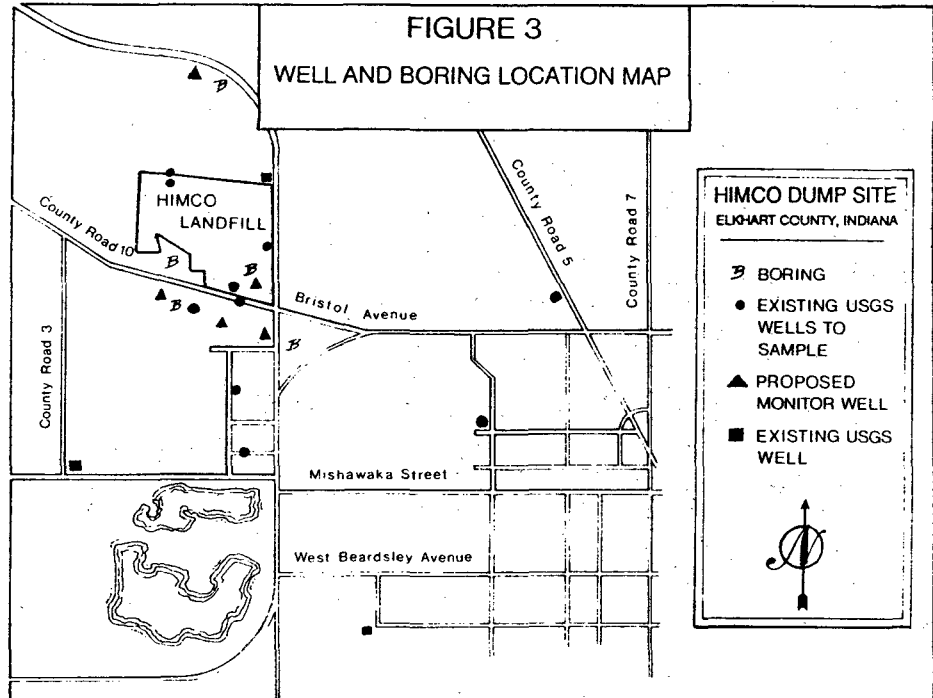
Because no known records were kept during the landfill's operation, U.S. EPA does not know the exact type or amount of waste dumped at the Himco site. As the next step in the Superfund process, U.S. EPA will conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The first part of this study, the remedial investigation (RI), is a long-term study to:

- Discover whether landfill site soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater, leachate and landfill gas are contaminated.
- Determine the extent of contaminants.
- Define the pathways of contamination, that is, look for ways in which contaminants may be moving into other areas.
- Evaluate risk to public health and the environment.
- Gather all information necessary to explore possible remedies during the FS portion of the study.

Field work for the RI is scheduled to begin this summer. The nature of the field work will require U.S. EPA to take samples from residents' property along the southern border of the site. *Borings and monitoring wells* will be drilled on some of the properties. U.S. EPA will contact all property owners for permission before any field work is done on their property. The well location map on this page describes where borings and wells are to be drilled.

After the samples have been analyzed, the results will be published in an RI report. The RI report will also include an assessment of the risks posed by any contaminants found at the site.

The information in the RI report will serve as the basis for the feasibility study (FS), the next step in the Superfund process. The FS will outline several alternatives for addressing site contamination.



■ Technical Assistance Grants

U.S. EPA recently introduced a program that enables incorporated groups of interested citizens to obtain assistance in interpreting and understanding data generated during the remedial process. Technical Assistance Grants, or TAGs, provide up to \$50,000 to community groups wishing to hire consultants to interpret sampling results, reports, and other documents relating to the Superfund site. Twenty percent of the total costs of the project must be provided by the group. For example, if the study were to cost \$67,500 and the group applied for a \$50,000 TAG, the group must provide \$17,500 in cash or in-kind donations.

TAGs cannot be used to duplicate field or laboratory work. They may be used only to understand or interpret existing documents and activities conducted at the site. Educational institutions, municipalities, or other government agencies are not eligible to receive TAGs. However, government officials may belong to a community group requesting a TAG.

The Himco Dump Superfund site is at an early stage in the remedial investigation, so a TAG may be more useful several months from now. However, the process for obtaining a TAG is fairly complex, and this early stage may be a good time to learn more about the program.

More information about TAGs is available in the information repositories set up for the Himco Dump Superfund site or from U.S. EPA Region 5 in Chicago. The location of the information repositories and a toll-free number for U.S. EPA are listed on the back page under "For More Information."



■ The Superfund Process

In 1980, the U.S. Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as "Superfund." The law established a program for investigating and cleaning up actual or potential releases of hazardous substances at sites throughout the United States. In 1986, Congress reauthorized CERCLA by passing the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). Among other changes, Congress increased the size of the cleanup fund from \$1.6 billion to \$8.5 billion.

The Superfund process involves six major steps. The first step is identifying hazardous waste sites that pose a threat to human health and the environment. The second step involves a preliminary investigation/assessment of the actual or potential impact of the site on health, safety, and the environment. This investigation includes a visual field survey, site sampling, and collection and review of site historical data. The third step is placing the site on the National Priorities List (NPL), which is a national roster of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites. U.S. EPA makes this determination, in part, using the results of a Hazard Ranking System, which generates a single number representing the extent of the threat or potential threat of the site.

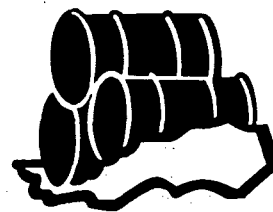
The fourth step involves conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility

Study (RI/FS). The RI/FS characterizes the nature and extent of contamination at the site, describes the extent of the threat to human health and the environment, and recommends a remedy for cleaning up the site. (At any time during the Superfund process, U.S. EPA may conduct an emergency response action if site contamination is found to be an immediate threat to public health or the environment.)

Selecting a final remedy is the fifth step in the Superfund process. Public comments on the proposed remedy will be taken into consideration. When a final remedy is chosen, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be published to document the remedy and explain why it was selected.

The sixth step of the Superfund process is the Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA). The RD details plans for the final remedy; the RA implements the actual site cleanup.

U.S. EPA will attempt to identify any Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) responsible for site contamination. These PRPs will be asked to conduct the RI/FS. If no PRP volunteers, U.S. EPA will fund the RI/FS. Once the RI/FS is complete, U.S. EPA will again negotiate with the PRPs to conduct and pay for the final remedy. If no agreement can be reached, U.S. EPA will take appropriate action to ensure that the site is cleaned up.



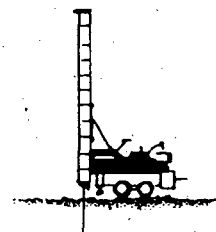
1 Identification



2 Investigation/Assessment



3 NPL Placement



4 RI/FS



5 Final Remedy



6 RD/RA

Introduction

continued from page 1

Part two of the study, the Feasibility Study (FS), examines in detail the appropriate alternatives for cleaning up the site. From this study, EPA and IDEM will develop a *Proposed Plan* which will outline the alternative they feel will best protect human health and the environment. The Proposed Plan and the selected remedy will be presented in a future fact sheet.

Before a final decision is made on the Proposed Plan, a 30-day public comment period will be held. The comment period will include a public meeting, during which all

interested people are invited to learn more about the RI/FS, ask questions of U.S. EPA and IDEM representatives, and offer their views on the Proposed Plan. The comment period allows the public time to offer their comments either in writing or by calling the U.S. EPA Region 5 office.

At the close of the comment period, U.S. EPA and IDEM will review and consider all comments received. They will then make a final decision on which alternative to choose for the Himco Dump cleanup. The U.S. EPA will sign a *Record of Decision*

(ROD) that details the chosen plan and explains the background on the decision. The ROD will also include the U.S. EPA's responses to comments received during the public comment period.

The *Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA)* follows the signing of the ROD. The remedial design (RD) explains cleanup plans in detail and outlines the specific actions needed to conduct the cleanup. The remedial action (RA) is the construction phase — it includes the actual site cleanup measures.

■ For More Information

U.S. EPA CONTACTS

The following U.S. EPA personnel may be contacted if you have further questions about the Himco Dump Superfund site:

Karen Martin
Community Relations
Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA
(312) 886-6128

Robert Lance
Remedial Project
Manager
U.S. EPA
(312) 886-4745

U.S. EPA Region 5
230 South Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60604

TOLL FREE:
1-800-621-8431
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Central Time

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Information repositories contain laws, work plans, community relations plans, technical reports, and other documents relevant to the investigation and cleanup of Superfund sites. Information repositories for the Himco Dump Superfund site have been set up at the following locations:

Elkhart Public Library
300 South Second Street
Elkhart, IN 46516
(219) 522-5669
Contact: **Marsha Eilers,**
Reference Department
Director

Pierre Moran Branch Library
2400 Benham Avenue
Elkhart, IN 46517
(219) 294-6418
Contact: **Phyllis Hostetler,**
Librarian

■ Glossary

Borings ■ Deep, but very narrow holes (usually under about 6 inches in diameter) dug with a "drill rig" at various locations on and around a Superfund site. Soil borings are used to collect samples of soil below the ground. Borings with special wells installed in them called "monitoring wells" are used primarily to collect groundwater samples.

Groundwater ■ Water contained in rock, soil, sand, or gravel beneath the earth's surface. Rain that does not evaporate or immediately flow to streams and rivers slowly seeps into the ground to form groundwater reservoirs. When it occurs in a sufficient quantity, groundwater can be used as a drinking water supply.

Hazard Ranking System (HRS) ■ A scoring system used to determine if a site merits inclusion on the National Priorities List.

Heavy Metals ■ Metals including arsenic, lead, chromium, cadmium, mercury, and zinc that can be toxic at relatively low concentrations.

Hydrogeologic ■ A term pertaining to the science of hydrogeology, which studies surface water and groundwater and their modifying effects on the earth.

Leachate ■ A common term used when discussing landfills. Leachate is not a specific chemical itself; it is a liquid that has percolated through

wastes and contains components of these wastes. For instance, water may mix with leaking wastes inside a landfill, become contaminated, and then seep into the water table, polluting drinking water wells.

Monitoring Wells ■ Special wells drilled at specific locations on or near a hazardous waste to study the groundwater. Samples taken from the monitoring wells are analyzed to obtain such information as the direction in which groundwater flows and the type and amounts of contaminants present.

National Priorities List (NPL) ■ A federal roster of hazardous waste sites that actually or potentially threaten human health or the environment and are eligible for investigation and cleanup under the federal Superfund program.

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) ■ Any individual(s) or company(ies) — such as owners, operators, transporters, or generators — potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a Superfund site. Whenever possible, U.S. EPA requires PRPs, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up hazardous waste sites they have contaminated.

Proposed Plan ■ A plan issued according to Section 117(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). It

is a summary of the cleanup alternatives, including the preferred alternative, U.S. EPA has considered for controlling contamination at a Superfund site.

Record of Decision (ROD) ■ The Record of Decision documents the action plan for the remedy chosen for a site and provides background on the decision. The ROD also provides the basis for future U.S. EPA efforts to recover Superfund monies spent on cleanup from responsible parties.

Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA) ■ The Remedial Design (RD) details the final plan and the specifications for conducting a Superfund site cleanup. The Remedial Action (RA) is the construction or implementation phase. After the RD is completed and approved, the RA documents the actual site cleanup measures.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) ■ A two-part study of a Superfund site that must be completed before a cleanup can begin. The first part, the remedial investigation, determines the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site. The second part, or feasibility study, evaluates several alternative remedies (including no action) that are designed to address the problems identified during the remedial investigation.

Sediment ■ Mud, sand, soil, gravel, and decomposing animals and plants that settle to the bottom of a stream, lake, river, ditch, or other body of water.

Semi-volatile Organic Compounds ■ A group of organic compounds that have a tendency to change from liquids to gases at relatively high temperatures. Similar to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which react at lower temperatures.

Sludge ■ A highly concentrated, solid or semi-solid by-product of municipal or industrial waste-water treatment processes.

Soil Gas ■ A gas resulting from the decomposition of organic matter within or beneath soil. Methane is the most common soil gas.

Superfund ■ The common name used for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). CERCLA was updated and improved in 1986 when Congress passed the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

Surface Water ■ Streams, lakes, ponds, rivers, or any other body of water above the ground.

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) ■ A group of organic compounds that have a tendency to change from liquids to gases at relatively low temperatures when exposed to air. Due to this tendency, VOCs disappear more rapidly from surface water than from groundwater. Since groundwater does not usually come in contact with air, VOCs are not easily released and can be present in groundwater used for drinking water. When present in drinking water, VOCs may pose a potential threat to human health. Some VOCs are believed to cause cancer in humans. Examples include xylene, toluene, trichloroethylene, and 1,2-dichloroethane.

■ Mailing List

U.S. EPA compiles a mailing list of interested residents for each Superfund site. If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, you are not on the mailing list for the Himco Dump Superfund site. If you wish to be added to the mailing list, or know of anyone else who would, please fill out this form, detach, and mail to:

Karen Martin (5PA-14)
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA Region 5
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

